

The **M**usic**M**akers **A**cademy

485 Hartford Road, Manchester, CT 06040 (860) 646-3096 info@mmlessons.com
www.musicmakersacademy.com

To Members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Paula Penna, owner and director of MusicMakers, LLC a music school for children and adults in Manchester, CT. We have been in business for approximately 12 years, and are a service-oriented business.

I am writing to voice my opposition to several tax bills before you which would seriously damage Connecticut's economy and our ability to compete and succeed here. These proposals would substantially increase our business costs and make it much harder for us to continue doing business in Connecticut. Specifically, we are opposing: HB-6349 and HB-6350.

As a music school, we find it very hard to stay afloat, as there is a definite ceiling on what tuition can be charged. If the proposals above are granted, our business costs will exceed that which we can charge for tuition, and the community will lose out. We do not qualify for any kind of government help, and our tuition is the only way we make money to stay in business. We find it very hard to compete with other community music schools, since they are affiliated with major universities and therefore have grant money and donations to lean on, as well. However, we provide an invaluable service to children and parents in the Manchester and surrounding areas, as our programs are not as encumbered as those affiliated with the music schools, and therefore we have the flexibility to heighten our teaching.

We urge you to reject these proposals and work with the business community to encourage economic development and job creation in Connecticut.

Thank you.

Signed,

Paula Penna
Director/Owner